September 2001

United Kingdom

With its significant North Sea reserves, the United Kingdom is a major European oil and natural gas producer. It is also one of the largest energy consumers in Europe.

Information contained in this report is the best available as of September 2001 and is subject to change.

BACKGROUND

The United Kingdom (official name: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, abbreviated: UK) is a major political and economic world power and a close ally of the United States. It is also the world's fourth-largest economy. The country joined the European Union (EU) in 1973 (confirmed by referendum in 1975), but has no plans to join the common European currency, the euro, in the immediate future. Despite the UK's lack of participation in the euro, the country has continued to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) - about $517 billion total at the end of 2000, second in the world after the United States. The UK is an even larger exporter of capital - outward FDI at the end of 2000 totaled $902 billion, also second to the United States. The UK maintains a smaller public sector than many of its EU counterparts.

The UK, like most of the OECD, has seen growth rates decline in 2001. GDP growth in the UK is expected to decline to 2% in 2001, and will decline further still if the economy of the United States approaches a mild recession, as the UK economy is the second-closest linked to that of the United States of all the countries of the EU. This slowdown is also expected to decrease external demand, raising the trade deficit for 2001. Despite this, unemployment fell to a 26-year low in July 2001.

Given low inflation (under the government's target of 2.5% for 28 consecutive months) and the prospect of slackening growth (especially in the manufacturing sector), the Bank of England has cut interest rates four times in 2001, most recently in August.

The United Kingdom is by far the largest petroleum producer and exporter in the EU (Norway is not a member of the EU). It also is the largest producer and an important exporter of natural gas in the EU. Most of the UK's oil and gas reserves and production are located off the coast of Scotland, with the Scottish city of Aberdeen considered to be the oil and gas capital of the United Kingdom. The International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), the second-largest energy futures exchange in the world, is located in London. The second and third-largest publicly traded energy companies in the world in terms of market value, Royal Dutch/Shell and BP, respectively, are based in the UK (Royal Dutch/Shell is also based in the Netherlands). Because major UK energy companies are private, the imminent decline in British oil and gas production most likely will translate to an increase in UK companies' involvement abroad, mitigating the effect in the overall UK economy, though Scottish employment is particularly sensitive to North Sea production levels. The oil and gas industry represented about 12% of industrial capital investment, and 2% of total capital investment in 2000. The energy industry overall represents about 4% of GDP. The UK has high taxes on petroleum products, making for among the highest prices in the EU. High fuel prices caused protests and blockades in September 2000.

In July 1999, a Scottish Parliament met for the first time in almost 300 years. "Devolution" gives the Scottish Parliament the ability to tax its own citizens, plus jurisdiction over local issues such as education, health, transport, and agriculture. It has no effect on the economic and industrial structure of the United Kingdom, which remains a single market. Devolution has had no effect on North Sea oil and gas.

North Sea Oil and Gas

North Sea oil and gas reserves were first discovered in the 1960s. The North Sea did not emerge immediately as a key non-OPEC oil producing area, but North Sea production grew as major discoveries continued throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s. Although the region is a relatively high cost producer, its high quality crude oil, political stability, and proximity to major European consumer markets have allowed it to play a major role in world oil and gas markets.

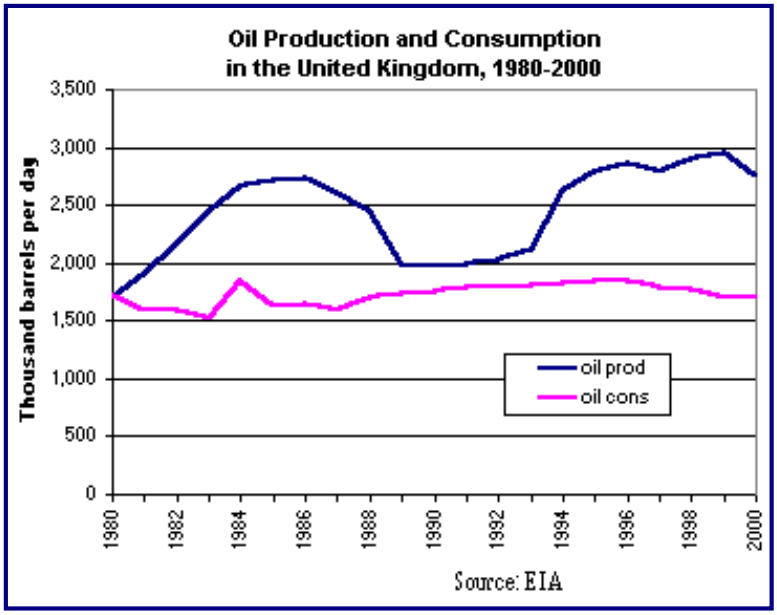
Many of the world's major crude oil prices are linked to the price of the North Sea's Brent crude oil. (Brent crude is a blend of North Sea crude oils and does not come exclusively from the Brent field.) Because Brent crude is traded on the International Petroleum Exchange in London, fluctuations in the market are reflected in the price of Brent. Therefore, all other crude oils linked to Brent can be priced according to the latest market conditions. Brent production is forecast to fall precipitously from its current 450,000 bbl/d by 2005, but discussions are reported to be underway on building a pipeline spur from the Statfjord system to the Shell-run Brent pipeline to Sullom Voe. The increased throughput would support trade in the increasingly dated Brent price marker, extending its life as a price marker and reducing volatility in the 15-day Brent forward market, where liquidity has fallen to about 10 cargoes per delivery month compared with 300-400 deals per month in the early 1990s.

The North Sea is considered a "mature" area, with few large discoveries likely to be made. Only a few frontier areas hold the possibility of further discoveries of large oil and gas fields. In both of the major North Sea producing nations, Norway and the UK, government and industry are taking steps to restructure their oil and gas sectors to make them more internationally competitive.

OIL

The UK holds about 5 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, almost all of which is located in the North Sea. Most of the country's production comes from basins east of Scotland in the central North Sea.

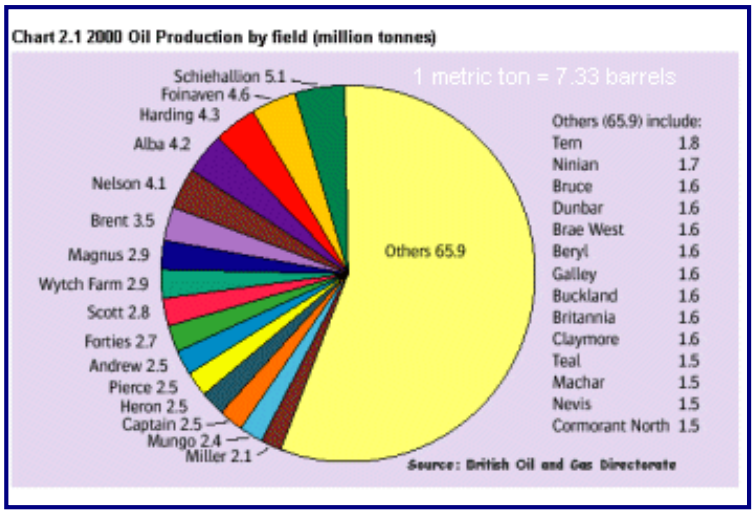
The northern North Sea (east of the Shetland Islands) also holds considerable reserves, and smaller deposits are located in the North Atlantic Ocean, west of the Shetland Islands. There are over 100 oil and gas fields currently onstream, and several hundred companies are active in the area. In 2000, the United Kingdom's production declined to 2.75 million barrels per day (bbl/d), down from a historical high of 2.95 million bbl/d in 1999. Production is expected to decline by 85,000 bbl/d in 2001. Most of the UK's crude oil production ranges in gravity from 30º to 40º API. Most high quality crude is exported, while cheaper, lower quality (mainly from the Middle East) crude oils are imported for refining. Unit costs for UK oilfields averaged just above $15 per barrel in 2000, though fields that started production in the 1990s have lower costs.



The domestic UK oil and gas industry is expected to decline as reserves are depleted in the coming decade. The British Oil and Gas Industry Task Force was set up in 1998 to bring together government departments and oil and gas industry representatives (the oil and gas industry is 100% in the hands of the private sector) to discuss the future of the industry. A successor body to the Task Force, known as "PILOT", now has been created to oversee the execution of Task Force recommendations and future developments. Government and industry are interested in collaborating to facilitate a "gentle decline" in British North Sea production, a component of which involves shifting focus from small numbers of very large projects to larger numbers of smaller projects.

Production

The number of fields under development or in production in the UK at the end of 2000 was 264. Just two fields ceased production, Bladen and Blenheim. Oil production from six offshore fields commenced in 2000: Bittern, Cook, Guillemot West, Guillemot North West, Shearwater (condensate), and Keith. In 2001, as of July, four new offshore oil fields were approved for development by the British Oil and Gas Directorate: Halley, Hannay, Kestrel, and Otter; and the Angus field was approved for redevelopment.



In December 2000, the British government gave approval to four new projects that will result in $1.5 billion in new investment in the British North Sea: (1) a £320 milliongas pipeline from the Shetland Islands to the Magnus oil field that takes suplus gas from Sullom Voe oil terminal on the Shetland Islands to be reinjected for enhanced recovery in the Magnus field; (2) a floating platform to drill for oil in the Leadon field which was discovered in 1979, but so far undeveloped, that is expected to yield 50,000 bbl/d of oil equivalent (see below); (3) further development by BP of

the Foinaven oil field; and (4) Ranger Oil's (subsidiary of Canadian Natural Resources Limited) production in the Kyle field, which started in April 2001 at 7,000 bbl/d, in addition to gas production. Total investment spending in the UK continental shelf in 2000 was about £3 billion, though continued high oil prices make it likely that investment will increase for 2001. Most new developments will be subsea, using existing infrastructure, instead of new platforms.

As noted above, production commenced in April 2000 from the Bittern, Guillermot West, and Guillermot North West fields by means of the Amerada-Hess operated Triton FPSO. About 78% of the content is British, and the three fields have reserves of about 140 million barrels of oil and 180 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of gas. Expected field life is 13 years and daily production is 60,000 bbl/d. Another development is the £350-million expansion Area B to Texaco's Captain field completed in December 2000 allows production to increase by 25,000 bbl/d to 85,000 bbl/d and will extend the field's life to beyond 2015.

Some of the smaller projects planned for the British North Sea include development of the Jade and Blake fields. In January 2000, the British subsidiary of Phillips Petroleum (operator) and its partners British Gas, Texaco, Agip, and OMV received approval from DTI to develop the Jade field. The field is expected to produce 15,000 bbl/d of crude oil and 200 million cubic feet per day (Mmcf/d) of natural gas after it comes onstream in late 2001. The BG-operated Blake field represents the opening up of the Outer Moray Firth for new discoveries and developments. It has a subsea tie-back to the existing Bleo Holm FPSO, and will extend the life of the existing Ross field. Production is expected to start in third-quarter 2001.

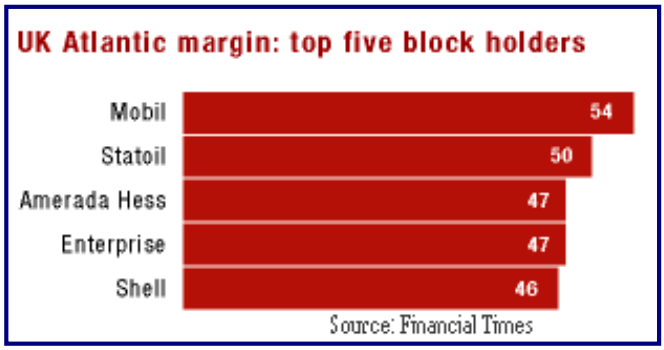
Another important development is the Skene field, which is being developed by operator ExxonMobil as a subsea tie-back to the Beryl Alpha platform. This field has a complex mix of hydrocarbons, including crude oil and condensate, that is estimated to be about 100 million barrels of oil equivalent. Only the implementation of the latest technology using a heated flowline bundle has made recovery possible. It is expected to come online in April 2002.

A larger project that was given approval in 2000 is the development of the Leadon field. It was discovered in 1979, but became economically viable with the discovery of a northern extension of the field. The Canadian company Kerr-McGee-operated field is expected to commence production in early 2002, and will peak at 40,000 bbl/d of crude oil.

Europe's largest on-shore oilfield is Wytch Farm. Estimated reserves are 500 million barrels. Egdon Exploration is active in the area, and it is hoped that even smaller fields can be economically viable as they are on-shore. Other smaller on-shore fields are clustered in east-central England.

Industry Structure

Industry reorganization that started with BP's 1998 merger with Amoco continues. The merged BP Amoco, (now simply BP) already one of the world's largest petroleum companies, announced in April 1999 its intentions to take over Los Angeles-based Atlantic Richfield (Arco), which was completed in April 2000. The merged company is truly global and is the world's third-largest publicly traded oil and gas company. Most of the majors have a share of UK North Sea production, including BP, Chevron, Conoco, ENI, ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch/Shell, Texaco, and TotalFinaElf. Amerada Hess, Enterprise, and Statoil also have large shares. The graphic shows the number of blocks held by each top-ranking company in 2000.



BP Exploration is managed from Aberdeen, Scotland (as are most other companies that are active in the British North Sea). BP produces oil and gas and brings ashore 40% of the UK's total production through the Forties Pipeline System to Grangemouth, Scotland. BP Amoco has producing fields in the North Sea and, since the end of 1997, in the North Atlantic, west of the Shetland Islands. It operates the Sullom Voe oil terminal in the Shetlands, which is Europe's largest oil terminal. The 206,000-bbl/d oil refinery and petrochemical complex at Grangemouth represents one of Scotland's largest industrial complexes.

British independent oil companies, important in the North Sea oil scene, were particularly hard hit by the oil price collapse of 1998. As a result, the major five independents at the time, Enterprise, Lasmo, Premier, British-Borneo, and Cairn, were hesitant to approve new investment and development in 1999-2000, though Enterprise has now begun more investment and development. The consolidation sweeping the oil majors has affected the independents. Enterprise, the largest British independent, unsuccessfully attempted to take over the second largest, Lasmo, in the spring of 1999. Enterprise's UK production was 164,907 barrels of oil equivalent per day in 2000. In 2000, Italian oil and gas giant ENI began to acquire British independents, British-Borneo in March 2000, and Lasmo in February 2001. This gives ENI a presence in the North Sea, and increases its worldwide oil and gas assets, particularly in Asia. Regarding the remaining two independents, Premier is heavily focused outside of the UK, and Cairn's production and reserves are very small, even for an independent.

Downstream

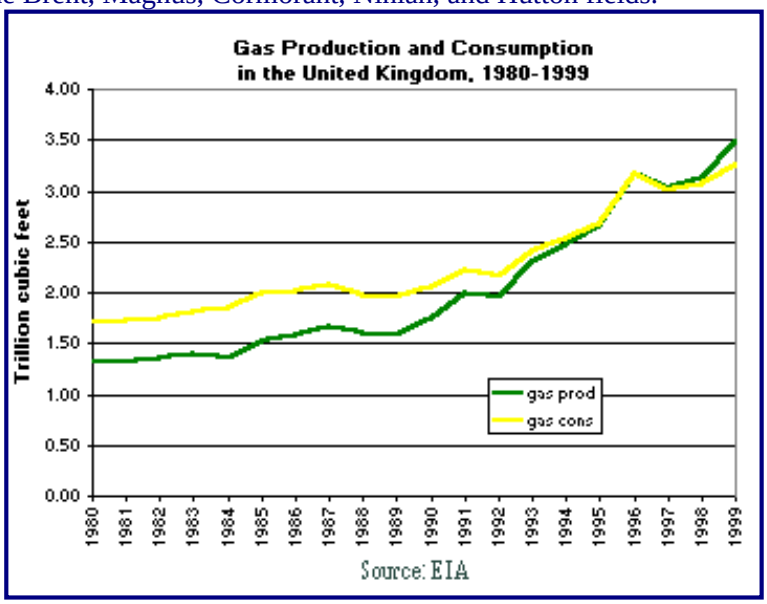
The UK's crude oil refining capacity is approximately 1.77 million barrels per day, just slightly more than the country's consumption. However, the UK imports and exports refined products because British refineries produce an excess of some grades and products and insufficient quantities of others for local demand. Additionally, demand for gasoline varies seasonally. The largest refinery is ExxonMobil's (Esso's) 311,240-bbl/d Fawley refinery in Southhampton, one of the largest in Europe and marine tanker accessible. It also has a pipeline to the on-shore Wytch Farm field. The 100,000-bbl/d Port Clarence Phillips-Imperial Petroleum refinery at North Tees is connected by pipeline to the Phillips Consortium Ekofisk Oil Terminal at Seal Sands, giving it a direct feed from the North Sea. The Grangemouth refinery is also directly connected to the North Sea through the Forties Pipeline System.

Petroleum products represented 45% of final energy consumption in 2000. The retail gasoline market is dominated by Esso (ExxonMobil), BP, Shell, TotalFinaElf, Texaco, and Conoco, which together account for 58% of gasoline sales. Supermarkets now account for 8% of retail sales. Total retail sales were 28 billion liters (7.4 billion gallons) in 2000. The transport sector consumed 74% of petroleum products in 2000, whereas the energy industry consumed just 7%. Fuel oil use has declined 30% since 1998, as industrial and home-heating demand has dropped in favor of gas.

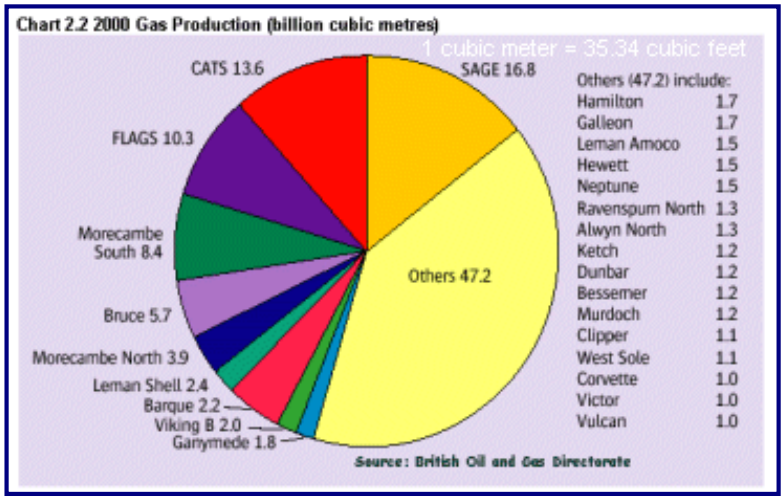
NATURAL GAS

The UK contains an estimated 26.8 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas reserves, most of which are in non-associated gas fields located off the English coast in the Southern Gas Basin, adjacent to the Dutch North Sea sector. The UK shares the declining Frigg field with Norway (39.18% to the UK), which is expected to be shut down in 2002, and has small share of the 0.44-Tcf Statfjord field (14.53%). There are a few small fields on-shore. The Irish Sea contains the large Morecambe and Hamilton fields. Morecambe alone accounts for up to 20% of British natural gas production. Key producing gas fields in the North Sea include BP's 5.7-Tcf Leman, Chevron and Conoco's 3-Tcf Brittania, Shell's 1.7-Tcf Indefatigable and 0.8-Tcf Clipper, and TotalFinaElf's 0.85 Tcf Elgin. Key pipelines are the Scottish Area Gas Evacuation (SAGE) system to the St Fergus Terminal, which

handles gas produced from a number of North Sea fields, including Britannia, the Beryl and Brae areas, and others in the central/northern North Sea, the Central Area Transmission System (CATS) that also goes to the Central North Sea, and takes gas from several fields, including Everest, Judy, and Jade, and others, and the Far North Liquids and Associated Gas System (FLAGS) that takes gas from the northern North Sea, including the Brent, Magnus, Cormorant, Ninian, and Hutton fields.



The largest project to come online in 2001 (in March) in the British North Sea is the TotalFinaElf-operated Elgin/Franklin platform, which might prove to be the last big North Sea production platform. It is the world's largest high-pressure, high temperature development. The Elgin/Franklin platform has extensive processing facilities, unlike most North Sea platforms. The $2.3-billion platform is expected to last for 22 years in its location in the central North Sea, in the Graben area, off the coast of Scotland. It is to produce 700 million barrels of oil equivalent, about half condensate and half natural gas. This equates to peak production of 350 million cubic feet per day (Mmcf/d) of natural gas. The export pipelines are shared with the Shearwater field, and include a 294-mile gas pipeline to Bacton and a 24-mile condensate pipeline to the Marnock platform. The Shell-operated Shearwater field in the central North Sea was inaugurated in September 2000, and has reserves of 0.71 Tcf natural gas and 110 million barrels of condensate. Gas production is expected to peak at 375 Mmcf/d.



The Brigantine cluster is the most important recent development in the Southern Gas Basin. It is three fields with two platforms using extended reach horizontal wells to get at reserves of 0.27 Tcf. Shell is the operator, and production of 130 Mmcf/d commenced in the first quarter of 2001. There is a 12-mile pipeline to the Corvette platform, which is connected indirectly with Bacton.

British Gas was the monopoly supplier to the interruptible market until the passage of the 1995 Gas Act, which split the company into supply and shipping (British Gas Trading Limited) and while other functions remained with British Gas, including transport subsidiary Transco. In 1997, Centrica was demerged from from British Gas, and British Gas was renamed BG. Centrica is the holding company for British Gas Trading, British Gas Services, the Retail Energy Centers, and is the producer in the Morecambe fields. BG retained Transco, along with exploration and production, international downstream, R&D and properties. In October 2000, BG again split, with Transco becoming part of a separate holding company Lattice Group. Independent Gas suppliers entered the firm (non-tariff) market in 1990, but the larger interruptible market (smaller customers) brought in competition in 1995. The consumer gas market was deregulated by region from October 1997 to June 1998, such that all residential and commercial customers could choose their supplier at the end of this process. At the end of 2000, suppliers other than British Gas Trading had captured 20-30% of the market in many

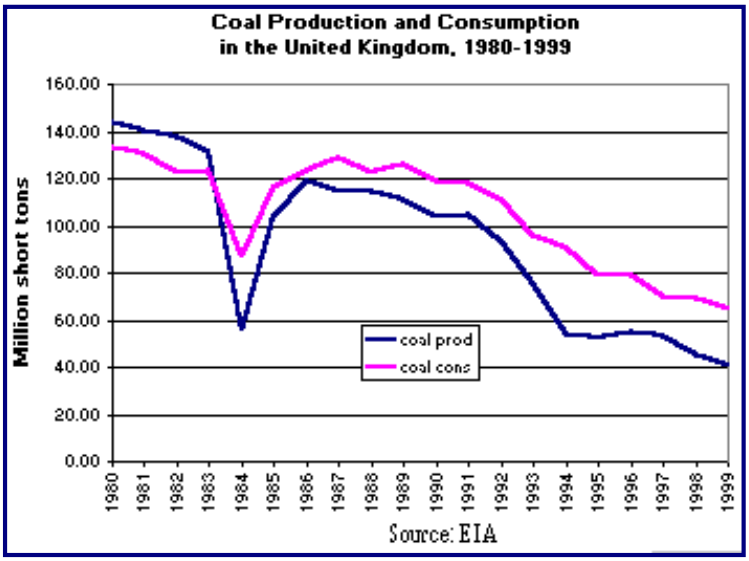
regions of the UK. In July 2001, Houston-based Dynegy purchased BG Storage from what remains of BG for $590 million, acquiring gas production wells and platforms, salt caverns, pipelines, and a natural gas processing terminal.

The UK's gas and electricity regulatory body is the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem). Ofgem has proposed reforming price controls on Transco's pipeline usage fees. The privatization of the UK's gas industry, leading to an increased gas supply and reduced prices, has helped gas to replace much of the UK's reliance on coal as a source for electricity generation. The natural gas share of utility fuels was 1% in 1988 and is expected to increase to almost 50% by 2010. Privatization in the UK has progressed well in advance of EU requirements.

In 1998, the UK-Continent Gas Interconnector pipeline was opened, with terminals at Bacton, England and Zeebrugge, Belgium. This is the first natural gas pipeline linking the United Kingdom to the European continent. A new pipeline to connect Ireland to Scottish gas sources in the Corrib field was approved in November 1999, and a plan to connect Ireland to England via Wales was announced in April 2000. A pipeline would run from Manchester, England, underground to Wales, and then under the Irish Sea to just north of Dublin. There is currently one pipeline linking Britain and Ireland, connecting Ireland to Scottish gas sources. Despite these pipeline projects, the UK will remain a much smaller natural gas exporter than North Sea neighbor Norway, and will eventually become a net importer as the UK begins to import Norwegian gas again. Norway had once supplied up to a quarter of British demand in the 1980s, but this dwindled as the Frigg field that supplied the gas was depleted. The new Vesterled gas pipeline, set to begin operations October 1, 2001, will be one of the ways Norwegian gas may enter the UK. Vesterled will connect the existing Frigg pipeline with the Heimdale platform, which is already connected by pipeline to the Sleipner gasfields, and from there to other areas of the Norwegian North Sea such as the Ormen Lange gasfield that is scheduled to come on stream in 2006. In July 2001, BP announced a 15-year contract to buy 56.5 billion cubic feet (Bcf) natural gas per year from Statoil. However, Statoil has indicated that it would not import large volumes of gas through Vesterled unless Britain changed its pricing system for bringing gas onshore from North Sea fields. Statoil officials have asserted that the UK's system of auctioning entry capacity, or access rights to the national pipeline system, had produced volatile, very high prices.

COAL

Coal production and consumption in the United Kingdom have decreased dramatically since 1986. UK coal production fell from 119 million short tons (Mmst) in 1986 to 40.9 Mmst in 1999. Production fell again in 2000, but demand rose, increasing imports. In 2000, steam coal accounted for 80% of coal demand, coking coal for 15%, and anthracite for 5%. Electricity demand accounted for 95% of demand for steam coal and 46.5% of demand for anthracite. In the late 1980s, coal accounted for about two-thirds of the United Kingdom's thermal electricity production. Currently, less than half of UK thermal electricity is coal-fired, and the figure is expected to fall below one-third by the end of the decade. Coal mines are located primarily in central and northern England and southern Wales, with some coal mines also found in southern Scotland. The UK produced 40.5 million tons of bituminous coal and 409 thousand tons of anthracite coal in 1999. The UK also produces coke-oven coke in quantities such that it is self-sufficient. Nevertheless, net imports of coal in 1999 were 23.9 million tons.



Between 1984 and 1985, the British coal miners' union staged a year-long strike. The strike dramatically altered energy production and consumption patterns in the United Kingdom for that year and precipitated the longer term decline of the industry (see graph). Employment in the industry has plummeted since the late 1980s. The United Kingdom began liberalizing its electricity market in 1989, and this liberalization is one of the major reasons for the decline of the country's coal industry. Prior to the privatization of electricity, the cost of domestic coal to electric utilities had far exceeded the cost of coal traded in international markets. The Central Electricity Generation Board (CEGB) had been the primary purchaser of British coal. The CEGB largely subsidized the British coal industry, purchasing domestic coal at above world market prices and then passing on those costs to consumers. This ended when National Power and PowerGen, two private electricity generation companies, were formed in the early 1990s, weakening the bargaining power of British Coal, the national coal company.

In 1992, the British coal industry reached a turning point. Growing competition from increasingly available natural gas, the imminent removal of the regional electricity companies' captive franchise supply markets, and newly-enacted pollution abatement goals all worked to initiate the steady decline of the industry. The industry was privatized in 1994, at which point RJB Mining bought the major British Coal assets and become the country's major producer. Mining Scotland and Celtic Energy are the other two remaining companies. The UK coal industry had not received any subsidies since 1995, but in November 2000 the European Commission approved a modernization plan and aid scheme. The aid would go toward mines/production units that have long-term economic viability on the world market, but are having temporary difficulties as they restructure in an effort to reduce production costs. The total amount of aid will not exceed £110 million, and two disbursements of £25 million and £21 million have been made so far. Production costs over the period 1992 to 1999 already fell 35%, and the expectation is that these costs can fall further still before the aid scheme expires in July 2002.

New EU environmental directives are expected to further increase British coal production costs, leading some analysts to predict an end to the United Kingdom's coal industry in the early 2000s. RJB Mining is more optimistic about the future of British coal. RJB maintains that foreign coal prices will increase, making British coal more competitive, and that clean coal technology will allow power stations to burn increased amounts of coal without increased greenhouse gas emissions. Higher natural gas prices, gas-fired power plant outages for maintenance and repair, and reduced nuclear power led to a 14% increase in coal consumption by power producers in 2000.

ELECTRICITY

The United Kingdom has 70 million kilowatts of installed electric capacity, about 80% of which is thermal, 18% nuclear, and 2% hydropower. The country generated 342.8 billion kilowatt hours (bkwh) of electricity in 1999, making it the third-largest electricity market in Europe (behind Germany and France).

Electricity privatization began in the early 1990s, and the final phase of transition ended in May 1999. Initially, all non-nuclear state-owned power stations were privatized and four major generating companies -- PowerGen and National Power in England and Wales, and ScottishPower and Hydro-Electric in Scotland -- were formed to operate the stations. The grid distribution system in England and Wales became the property of the National Grid Company. Regional Electricity Boards were

privatized as separate distribution companies. Large customers were the first to be able to choose their suppliers, with all small customers (below 100 kW peak load) being able to choose by May 1999.

The number of electric generation companies in the United Kingdom has increased to 27 as a result of the liberalization process, according to DTI, such that 40% of the UK's electricity was generated by these new companies in 2000. In March 2001, the structure of the electricity industry changed yet again. Under the former system, generators and suppliers in England and Wales traded electricity through the electricity pool, which was regulated by the National Grid Company, owner of the transmission network. The New Electricity Trading Arrangements (NETA) changed this to a system based on bilateral trading between generators, suppliers, traders, and customers. The system includes fowards and futures markets, a balancing mechanism to enable the National Grid Company to balance the system, and a settlement process. Dallas-based TXU purchased United Utilities' retail electricity and natural gas business, Norweb Energi, for $465 million in August 2000. This, added to TXU's European retail business Eastern Energy, creates the UK's largest electricity retailer, with over 5.6 million customers. Powergen, with 2.6 million retail customers as well as 14% of electricity generation in England and Wales, merged with Louisville-based LG&E Energy in December 2000.

In Scotland, the two main companies, Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy, cover the full range of electricity provision. Ofgem has made proposals to further reform the Scottish power market. Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom but not part of Great Britain, is served by Northern Ireland Electricity, one of the largest companies in Northern Ireland and part of the Viridian Group. Northern Ireland has a separate electricity and gas regulatory body, Ofreg. The grids of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are connected for electricity import/export.

Nuclear

In 1995, the government announced that it would privatize its more modern nuclear stations while retaining ownership of older stations. In 1996, more modern stations were privatized and British Energy became the holding company of Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, which merged in 1998 to form British Energy Generation, the nation's largest private nuclear generator and the world's first wholly privatized nuclear utility. British Energy operates eight nuclear power stations in the UK (as well as several in the U.S. through its AmerGen subsidiary that is jointly owned with PECO). Each station consists of two advanced gas-cooled reactors, except Sizewell B, which is a modern pressurized-water reactor. Nuclear power stations were not privatized simultaneously with non-nuclear stations. No new plants have been built since 1995, but because of limited domestic coal and gas reserves in the long run, new construction is under discussion, at least to maintain nuclear's market share as older nuclear plants are retired. Of the UK's 33 reactors, 26 are of the old Magnox design. Six of the Magnox reactors are being decommissioned, as well as the Dounreay prototype fast reactor. The remaining Magnox plants are run by the state-owned British Nuclear Fuels. British Nuclear Fuels operates the Sellafield reprocessing plant, and is one of only two companies in the world that provides reprocessing and recycling technologies. The British nuclear industry is regulated by the Department of Trade and Industry's Nuclear Directorate.

ENVIRONMENT

With a reduction in sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide emissions, environmental conditions in the United Kingdom have improved over the past couple of decades. Some of these environmental improvements, such as a reduction in air pollution, can be attributed to the United Kingdom's energy use choices. Partially as a result of deregulation and the elimination of coal subsidies, coal's share of total primary energy consumption is gradually being replaced by natural gas.

Improvements in energy efficiency have led to a gradual reduction in both energy and carbon intensity. In 1980, energy intensity in the United Kingdom registered 11.70 thousand Btu per $1990, decreasing to 8.37 thousand Btu per $1990 in 1999, a 27% decline. Similarly, carbon intensity in 1999 registered 0.13 metric tons of carbon per thousand $1990, a 45% decrease from 1980 levels. Per capita energy consumption, at 167.8 million Btu in 1999, is rising gradually.

As the United Kingdom enters the 21st century, many energy and environment-related policies reflect the country's awareness of climate change issues. With introduction of the Climate Change Levy in 2001, and its exemption for renewable energy resources like solar and wind, these alternative sources of energy are beginning to gain more attention. For example, the United Kingdom hopes to increase the share of electricity generated by renewables from the current 2%, to 10% by 2010.

Sources for this report include: Aberdeen Press & Journal; CIA World Factbook; Economist; Economist Intelligence Unit ViewsWire; Financial Times; Hart's European Offshore Petroleum Newsletter; Oil & Gas Journal; Petroleum Economist; Petroleum Intelligence Weekly; The Scotsman; U.K. Department of Trade and Industry; U.S. Energy Information Administration; WEFA World Economic Outlook.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Head of State: Queen Elizabeth II
Prime Minister: Anthony (Tony) Blair, re-elected June 2001
Population (2000E): 59.5 million
Location/Size: Western Europe, islands including the northern one-sixth of the island of Ireland between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, northwest of France/244,820 sq km (slightly smaller than Oregon)
Capital City: London
Language: English
Ethnic groups: English 81.5%, Scottish 9.6%, Irish 2.4%, Welsh 1.9%, Ulster 1.8%, West Indian, Indian, Pakistani, and other 2.8%
Religions: Anglican 27 million, Roman Catholic 9 million, Muslim 1 million, Presbyterian 800,000, Methodist 760,000, Sikh 400,000, Hindu 350,000, Jewish 300,000 (1991 est.)
Defense (8/98): Army, 113,900; Navy, 44,500; Air Force, 52,540

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Chancellor of the Exchequer: Gordon Brown
Currency: Pound sterling
Exchange Rate (9/04/01): 1 US Dollar = 0.69 pounds
Gross Domestic Product (GDP, 2000E): $1,415 billion
Real GDP Growth Rate (2000E): 3.0% **(2001F):** 2.0%
Inflation Rate (consumer prices, 2000E): 2.9% **(2001F):** 2.0%
Unemployment Rate (2000E): 3.7% **(2001F):** 3.4%
Merchandise Exports (2000E): $283 billion
Merchandise Imports (1999E): $327 billion
Major Trading Partners: United States, Germany, France, Netherlands
Major Exports: Food, beverages, and tobacco; crude materials, fuels, chemicals, machinery, transport equipment
Major Imports: Food, beverages, and tobacco; crude materials, fuels, chemicals, machinery, transport equipment

ENERGY PROFILE

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry: Patricia Hewitt
Minister of State for Industry and Energy: Brian Wilson
Proven Oil Reserves (1/1/01): 5 billion barrels
Oil Production (2000): 2.75 million bbl/d, of which 2.48 million bbl/d was crude oil
Oil Consumption (2000): 1.7 million bbl/d
Crude Oil Refining Capacity (1/1/01): 1.77 million bbl/d
Net Oil Exports (2000): 1.05 million bbl/d
Natural Gas Reserves (1/1/01): 26.8 trillion cubic feet (Tcf)
Natural Gas Production (1999E): 3.49 Tcf

Natural Gas Consumption (1999E):3.26 Tcf
Natural Gas Net Exports (1999E): 0.02 Tcf
Major Systems: Brent, Ninian, Forties, Flotta, Fulmar
Major Fields: E. Brae, Brent, Forties, Magnus, Miller, Scott
Oil and Gas Companies: Amerada Hess, BP Amoco, BHP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Kerr-McGee, Phillips, Ranger Oil, Shell, Texaco
Recoverable Coal Reserves (12/31/96E): 1.65 billion short tons
Coal Production (1999E): 40.9 million short tons (Mmst)
Coal Consumption (1999E): 64.8 Mmst
Electrical Generation Capacity (1/1/99): 69.9 gigawatts (79.7% thermal, 2.1% hydro, 18% nuclear, 0.2% other)
Electricity Generation (1999E): 342.8 billion kilowatt hours (bkwh)
Electricity Consumption (1999E): 333 bkwh

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

Secretary of State for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs: Margaret Beckett
Total Energy Consumption (1999E): 9.9 quadrillion Btu* (2.6% of world total energy consumption)
Energy-Related Carbon Emissions (1999E): 152.4 million metric tons of carbon (2.5% of world carbon emissions)
Per Capita Energy Consumption (1999E): 167.8 million Btu (vs. U.S. value of 355.8 million Btu)
Per Capita Carbon Emissions (1999E): 2.6 metric tons of carbon (vs. U.S. value of 5.5 metric tons of carbon)
Energy Intensity (1999E): 8,365 Btu/$1990 (vs U.S. value of 12,638 Btu/$1990)**
Carbon Intensity (1999E): 0.13 metric tons of carbon/thousand $1990 (vs U.S. value of 0.19 metric tons/thousand $1990)**
Sectoral Share of Energy Consumption (1998E): Industrial (37.0%), Residential (25.4%), Transportation (26.1%), Commercial (11.5%)
Sectoral Share of Carbon Emissions (1998E): Industrial (33.7%), Transportation (31.3%), Residential (24.3%), Commercial (10.6%),
Fuel Share of Energy Consumption (1999E): Oil (35.0%), Natural Gas (34.9%), Coal (15.7%)
Fuel Share of Carbon Emissions (1999E): Oil (41.2%), Natural Gas (33.4%), Coal (25.5%)
Renewable Energy Consumption (1998E): 137 trillion Btu* (15% increase from 1997)
Number of People per Motor Vehicle (1998): 2.3 (vs. U.S. value of 1.3)
Status in Climate Change Negotiations: Annex I country under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Under the negotiated Kyoto Protocol (signed on April 29th, 1998 - not yet ratified), the UK has agreed to reduce greenhouse gases 8% below 1990 levels by the 2008-2012 commitment period.
Major Environmental Issues: Sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants contribute to air pollution; some rivers polluted by agricultural wastes and coastal waters polluted because of large-scale disposal of sewage at sea.
Major International Environmental Agreements: A party to Conventions on Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Sulphur 94, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands and Whaling.

* The total energy consumption statistic includes petroleum, dry natural gas, coal, net hydro, nuclear, geothermal, solar, wind, wood and waste electric power. The renewable energy consumption statistic is based on International Energy Agency (IEA) data and includes hydropower, solar, wind, tide, geothermal, solid biomass and animal products, biomass gas and liquids, industrial and municipal wastes. Sectoral shares of energy consumption and carbon emissions are also based on IEA data.

**GDP based on EIA International Energy Annual 1999.

Links

For more EIA information on the United Kingdom:
EIA - Country Information on the United Kingdom
Electricity Restructuring and Privatization in the United Kingdom

Links to other U.S. Government sites:
CIA World Factbook - United Kingdom
U.S. State Department Country Commercial Guides: Europe
U.S. State Department Consular Information Sheet
U.S. Geological Survey, map of the United Kingdom including oil fields

The following links are provided as a service to our customers and should not be construed as advocating or reflecting any position of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) or the United States Government. EIA does not guarantee the content or accuracy of linked sites.

British Petroleum
Royal Dutch/Shell
Energy Links for the UK from Online Energy Services
International Petroleum Exchange
Grampian Oil and Gas Directory (an online database of companies operating in Scotland)
Scottish Enterprise Energy Group
RJB Mining
Electricity Association
National Power
PowerGen
ScottishPower
National Grid
Northern Ireland Electricity
British Energy (nuclear generator)
British Nuclear Fuels
UK Energy Centre
Ofgem
Ofreg
Department of Trade and Industry
Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions
British Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Scottish Parliament
International Energy Agency United Kingdom 1998 Review
Royal Institute of International Affairs, Energy and Environmental Programme
European Commission Directorate General XVII (Energy)

If you liked this Country Analysis Brief or any of our many other Country Analysis Briefs, you can be automatically notified via e-mail of updates. Simply click here, select "international" and the specific list(s) you would like to join, and follow the instructions. You will then be notified within an hour of any updates to our Country Analysis Briefs.

Return to Country Analysis Briefs home page

File last modified: September 5, 2001

Contact:

Tara Billingsley
tara.billingsley@eia.doe.gov
Phone: (202) 586-0172
Fax: (202) 586-9753

URL: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/uk.htm

If you are having technical problems with this site, please contact the EIA Webmaster at wmaster@eia.doe.gov